

High School – School Improvement Meeting – November 1, 2010

(Chris Snyder, Rob Wilson, Diane Hackenburg, Mark Laub, Louise Hummel, Jo McGuirk, Monica Romig, Mindy Callender, Matt Dietz, Robin Zubler, Vince, Nichole Fisher, Brian Beward, Judy Buranich, Henrietta Brennar, Paula Wagner, Brian Ulmer, Daphne Snook, Cynthia Hutchinson)

- Cynthia expressed frustration with some students' behavior.
- Some students are expressing frustration because they are all getting blamed for the behavior of a few.
- Anna Hoke, representative from student council, met with Cynthia regarding program for anti-bullying.
- A ninth grade boy is repeatedly bullied on the school bus by two 12th grade girls. Cynthia is addressing this...
- Bullying is repeated offenses over time. If it happens one time it is not considered bullying.

Reorganization meeting: School improvement process through PDE will require us to look through and complete an official plan. We will be going through some of those procedures this year as a school improvement team.

- Identify our areas of focus
- What things do we need to put in place?
 - How do we deal with the kids who are the ones for whom traditional measures are not working? (Three fights, many out of and in-school suspensions already this year.)
 - Some of the kids are thinking. Judy shared story re: premeditated vocabulary word.
 - Louise asked specifically about parental support. Cynthia said parents are very supportive.
- The kids who are influencing multiple students regarding their behavior... What about students whose actions are influenced by the behavior of one other. How do we address through students?
- Cynthia will meet with classes at teacher invitation and talk with students to tell them that we cannot make them learn; however, we can make sure that they are not influencing other students' learning.
- Students cannot be allowed to disrupt the whole class. Judy shared she had a group of Ag kids she spoke with Greg about. Greg dealt with this within his classes.
- Cynthia has relied on coaches and activity advisors in the past to help with students when there are problems.
- Utilizing others – who?
- Behavior is evidence of a need met or unmet; important to consequence but equally important to understand the motive behind the behavior
- Begun to lay the foundation for mentoring by assigning two people to a homeroom.
- We need time to mentor students and get time to know students. **It's all about relationships.**
- Put a mentoring program in place. We have enough people for each teacher to have 12 kids. **We have a lot of kids who are not attached to anyone.**
- November 12 PM PD – relationship between gangs and drugs

- PSEA lawyer tells Paula they have to be so careful about what students are discussing with them [teachers]. Paula worries about the line between mentoring and counseling. Cynthia acknowledged that teachers are hesitant because they are not trained as counselors; mentoring is not the same as counseling and there would be formal training for teachers before mentoring program is implemented.
- The respect thing is diminished
- Spend the most time in team meetings talking about solutions rather than complaining about the problems.
- What about choosing some students to talk to one on one?
- Mindy spoke about students who should police their peers in terms of telling their students not to take the “crap” from other students.
- Talk with kids about their ideas for what they would like to see happen or change throughout the school.
- Kids have many more liberties or choice in today’s society. If we deny them some things it’s not really a big deal for them
- Students will quit any activities just so they can go to work.
- Is there a way to get parents on board so that school comes before work?
- We can’t believe how many of our students pay for the groceries.
- Spirit is not here at school because students are spending their spirit at work an outside of school. **(Added later by Cynthia: the school spirit and support for the soccer teams throughout the playoff games was TREMENDOUS – how do we capture that during the school day?)**
- Society is changing. Our challenge is what becomes of school--because if we stay the way we are it is not ever going to meet the needs of our students. How do high schools today meet the changing needs of kids?
- Students in MWCA (cyber academy) who are or are not successful. But the hybrid option is the way we need to go (mix of brick/mortar and virtual school).
- How do we mould ourselves depending on which student we are talking about. The traditional high school does not work for some kids; is that number growing?
- The number of students who can be successful in a pure cyber school is very small.
- Chris mentioned taking time to talk about the schedule. Cynthia said she has been monitoring the time that it takes students to get through the lunch line.
- Staff may not be supportive of a schedule change this year since there are so many other changes that have taken place so far this year.
- If the schedule is going to happen could we do it when the schedule changes at mid-year. Judy thinks it would be better for this to happen next year.
- Cynthia said she would not plan to move forward without ample support on the part of faculty; they would need to review any suggested changes and evaluate the benefits to determine when to implement. Her hesitation in delaying until next year is forgoing another entire year with the current schedule that does not permit any time to catch up with students and provide necessary interventions.

Next meeting: Monday, November 22; 2:45 in HS office conference room